THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Central Government allocates the funds to the States as a whole and not National Highway-wise. The amounts allocated for maintenance of National Highways during 1992-93 to 1995-96 in respect of West Bengal are given in the table below. The maintenance figures for 1995-96 do not include the allocations in respect of Special Repairs and Floods Damage Repairs which will be decided towards the end of financial year after assessing the requirements.

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) allocations
1992-93	1070.51
1993-94	1760.45
1994-95	1744.02
1995-96	971.00

Appointment on compassionate grounds in Ministry of Railway

2267. SHRI KAILASH NARAIN SARANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways entertains applications for apointments on compassionate grounds from the wards of railway employees who die while in service;

(b) whether it is a fact that the wards of some employees of wagon Workshop, Kazipet, South Central Railway, Secunderabad, A.P. had applied for appointment on compassionate grounds to the General Manager, South Central Railway, Secunderabad in July, 1995; and

(c) if so, by when the applicants would be appointed on compassionate grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Applications for appointment on compassionate grounds on the Railways are normally entertained at the level of Zonal Railways/Production Units etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion between Tirupati and Katpadi

2268. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the gauge conversion between Tirupati and Katpadi was started two years ago;

(b) if so, whether the progress of gauge conversion in this section is very slow;

(c) whether the budget allotment made during 1995-96 is only about 6.5 crores;

(d) if so, whether this amount is not sufficient to give priority for the completion of this work; and

(e) if so, whether Government are considering to allocate more funds during 1995-96 so that the conversion work is completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) It is proposed to convert Tirupati-Katpadi section to broad gauge with electrification. The work is targetted for completion in 1997-98 to match the gauge conversion of Madurai-Dindigul-villupuram-Madras section, so that people coming from Southern Tamil Nadu to Tirupati on the MG are not put to inconvenience.

As such, the allocation of funds for this project made during 1995-96 is as per the requirements for progressing long lead items and accordingly work on bridges and other long-lead items is being progressed.